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MUS 522.01: Philosophy of Music

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MUS 522 - PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC (2 credits)
University of Montana Department of Music
Instructor: Mary Jane Belz, Ph D.
Tele: 406-243-2865 - E-mail: maryjane.belz@umontana.edu
Office 204 B - Office Hours: By appointment
Course meeting time: Tuesday-Thursday 1:10-2:00
Spring Semester, 2007
Location: Room 204

SYLLABUS
Course Outline

Week 1: January 22 - 26 (No class Thursday, January 25)

Topic: Introduction to the course

In-class Discussion Questions # 1

Reading for next week: Bowman (1998): p. 1- 5

Assignment for next week: Prepare typed feedback to Discussion Questions # 2 on the readings for next week. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due the first class period of the following week.

Week 2: January 29 - February 2

Topic: What are the aims and assumptions of music philosophy?

Readings for this week: Bowman (1998): p. 1 - 5

Thursday's music: _____

Assignment for next week: Prepare written feedback to the Discussion Questions # 3

Week 3: February 5 - 9

Topic: Philosophy's characteristic discourses; its value for musicians

Readings for this week: Bowman (1998): p. 5 - 11

Thursday's music: _____

Assignment for next week: Prepare written feedback to the Discussion Questions # 4

Week 4: February 12 - 14 - NO CLASS ON THURSDAY - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Topic: Spheres of musical validity and their nature

Readings for this week: Jorgensen (1990): p. 33 - 42

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 5

Week 5: February 20 - 23 NO CLASS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 - PRESIDENTS' DAY

Topic: Spheres of musical validity: Historical and developmental accounts

Readings for this week: Jorgensen (1990): p. 42 - 56

Thursday's music: _____

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 6

Week 6: February 26 - March 2

Topic: Spheres of musical validity and the music profession: Implications of Jorgensen's approach

Reading for this week: Jorgensen: 56 - 69

Thursday's music: _____

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 7

Week 7: March 5 - 9

Topic: The meaning of musicking

Readings for this week: Small (1996): p. 1-5; Small (1998): p. 1-18

Thursday's music: _____

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 8

Week 8: March 12 - 16

Topic: An "ethnomusicological" look at western classical music making

Readings for this week: Small (1998): p. 64-74; p. 75-87

Thursday's music: _____

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 9

Week 9: March 19 - 23

Topic: An “ethnomusicological” look at western classical music making: “What’s really going on here?”

Readings for this week: Small (1996): p. 183-224

Thursday's music:_____

Assignment for April 3 – Discussion Questions # 10

Discussion of the final paper

Week 10: March 26 - 30 - SPRING BREAK

Week 11: April 2 - 6

Topic: Toward a new philosophy

Readings for this week: Elliott (1995): p. 18-46

In-class Discussion Questions 11

Thursday's music:_____

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 12

Week 12: April 9 - 13

Topic: Transforming music

Readings for this week: Jorgensen (2003): p. 77-101

Thursday's music:_____

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 13

Week 13: April 16 - 20

Topic: Transforming music

Reading for this week: Jorgensen (2003): p. 101-117

Thursday's music:_____

Assignment for next week: Discussion Questions # 14

Week 14: April 23 - 27

Topic: Contemporary pluralist perspectives: Music and the postmodern

Reading for this week: Bowman (1998): 356-360; 399-407

Thursday's music:_____

Assignment for next week: Final draft of your paper

Week 15: April 30 - May 4 - FINAL WEEK OF CLASSES

Topic: In conclusion . . .

Due: Final draft of your paper

Week 16: FINAL EXAM WEEK (see Spring 2007 Course Catalog for the date and time of the Final Exam)

The papers will be presented during the time scheduled for our final exam

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Spring Semester, 2007

SYLLABUS: Course Description

Course Meeting Times: Tuesday, Thursday, 1:10-2:00 PM

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to examine historical and current trains of thought, respected in academic communities, regarding the basic tenets of the discipline of the philosophy of music. A primary goal is to have the student develop his/her own personal philosophy of music. In particular, the following questions will be explored:

1. What is music? 2. What is the value of music? 3. What is the significance of the terms "musics" and "musicking"? 4) How does philosophy of music relate to other areas such as aesthetics, psychology of music, and music critique? 5. Who are some of the respected scholars in this discipline? What are their ideas? 6. How may an exploration of the above guide the student in the development of his/her own philosophy of music?

Required materials:

Weekly readings will be assigned from various resources. The readings and study questions are to be accessed through the Electronic Reserve Department of Mansfield Library. Students will receive a Bibliography of all readings used in the course.

Assignments:

1. Weekly readings will form the basis for lectures and class discussions.
2. Specific 10 point assignments, based on the readings, will be given weekly.
3. On Thursdays, individual students will be requested to bring a short musical example (excerpt, 1-2 minutes) which illustrates a point in the reading for the week.
4. The final project will be a 100 point paper in which the student details the development of his/her personal philosophy of music, based on the readings and the material which have been discussed in class.
5. Each student will compile a comprehensive ringbinder containing the readings, class notes, assignments and any other materials the student feels may be relevant to the issues surrounding the course material. An organized and complete binder, complete with divided sections, will receive 50 points at the semester's end.

Attendance and grading policy:

In this graduate seminar it is expected that the student take an active part in class discussions on each topic in order to demonstrate knowledge gleaned from the readings. It is taken for granted that if a student misses class it is because of an emergency situation, and the instructor will not attempt to evaluate the reason for the absence. However, a telephone call explaining the absence is required. If a student misses class, he or she is responsible for all material missed that day. An absence on the day immediately before or after a holiday is strongly discouraged. Attendance is taken during the first 5 minutes of class. In order to earn an A in this class, the student must have regular attendance, be an active participant, and must have earned at least 90% of the semester's possible points. Assignments submitted after the due date will be subject to a lowered grade. Presentations are to be done on the assigned day.

Students with special needs: Students with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor.

Student Conduct Code: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/page/1321>.